

C O N F I D E N T I A L

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MINUTES OF THE FIFTY-NINTH MEETING OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EXPLOITATION OF FOREIGN LANGUAGE PUBLICATIONS

18 November 1955

Present

Members: John Lacey, State
LTJG William E. Nyce, Navy
John S. Shearer, Navy (replacing LTJG Nyce)
Howard G. Neumann, Air Force

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Consultants: R. W. McHenry, Navy

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1. The 59th meeting convened at 1400 hours. The minutes of the 58th meeting were approved with the following comments:

Mr. Lacey called attention to the fact that in his remarks as recorded on page 2 of the 58th minutes were directed toward a concern for greater flexibility. He did not mean to infer that more manpower would necessarily provide this flexibility.

At this point a general discussion arose regarding the type of reporting desired and the format under which it should be reported.

The Chairman summed up that CIA wants the maximum number of individual items regardless of format. Air Force similarly wants raw material, and compilations of such material are acceptable. NSA and Navy want individual items and the present form of reporting is acceptable.

2. Communist Far East

State: Mr. Lacey stated that the prominent position, priority-wise, given to the Communist Far East in DCID 4/5 indicated the importance attached to requirements for information on the Far East. In a general statement on the value of presently available information on Communist China Mr. Lacey stated that an extremely large percentage was derived from NCNA releases. This includes information available both from the press and radio. State Department felt that the heavy reliance on a single source for intelligence information on China was unfortunate and that a greater percentage of non-NCNA source material should be processed. Mr. Lacey stated that it was deplorable that Chinese Communist press and periodicals were not covered more extensively, since 90 percent of the information available on Communist China is available through Communist publications. Despite present facilities, including the American Consulate General in Hong Kong, Foreign Documents Division, the Army's MISG in Tokyo and the Air 600th AISS in Tokyo, the desired

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coverage of Chinese Communist published materials is far from satisfactory. Better and more extensive press coverage offers more opportunity for adequate information on Communist China than any other medium. Although many titles are available for use by the intelligence community only slight utilization has been made of them up to the present.

Bringing his remarks around to the present operations in FDD, Mr. Lacey stated that although, relatively speaking, considerably more material was desired, FDD operations had been increasingly more responsive to the needs of the State Department especially in the reporting of more lengthy articles. State Department highly commends FDD for its operation in making the complete text of the Five-Year Plan available in a minimum of time. State Department hoped to see a great deal more material on basic documents such as ordinances, decrees, and further material on the breakdown and development of the Five-Year Plan. State Department is increasingly concerned with the classification of the FDD product, which prevents State from making the material available to a number of outside institutions and individuals and makes it impossible for State Department personnel themselves to read over much of the more bulky material at home. With regard to the format of the FDD publications, by far the majority of the analysts in State Department are happy with the present format, although a minority are appalled at having to go through such bulky material to find specific items in which they are interested. In this connection an index of the FDD product would be helpful, although State would not push this point because it realizes that it would use up more of the all ready limited time of the FDD linguists. Mr. Lacey stated that the present coverage subject-wise by FDD is satisfactory, when the conflicting priorities of the many consumers of the FDD product are taken into account. He felt that although duplication of certain materials had proved of benefit for cross checking purposes, in general a continuous duplication of effort by the various components handling Chinese language was deplorable. State Department also has noticed much improvement in the quality of the FDD product and wishes to commend FDD for its effort to bring consistency into the rendering of Chinese terminology in FDD reports. It would also be helpful to have, in addition, romanization of vague terminology to a degree practical with FDD operations.

With regard to North Korea Mr. Lacey stated that North Korea material reported by FDD was valuable. He felt, however, that more effective use could be made of the present FDD manpower and that costly duplication between FBIS and FDD could be avoided. He stated that a separate statement would be submitted to FDD on the specific interests of State Department on the area.

On North Vietnam Mr. Lacey stated that there was involved the problem of sources which are scanty, and the problem of manpower which is limited. FDD reports to date have been good. State Department was especially pleased to receive in one of FDD's publication a recent party critique which was extremely valuable.

State hopes to receive more of this type material. State Department has found FDD liaison extremely good in the cases of Communist China and North Vietnam, but not quite so good with regard to North Korea.

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In answer to question of classification brought up by Mr. Lacey, [redacted] referred to a report titled "Chinese Communist Newspaper Believed Published as of September 1, 1955," prepared by the Publications Procurement Unit of the American Consulate General, Hong Kong, September 6, 1955. It stated, "Since the fall of 1952 the Chinese Communist authorities have forbidden the unrestricted foreign circulation of any mainland newspapers with the exception of the Peiping Jen Min Jih Pao, the Peiping Chung Kuo Ch'ing Mien Pao, the Tientsin Ta Kung Pao, and the Chinese edition of For A Lasting Peace, For A People's Democracy." This situation, with the resulting necessity to procure most Chinese Communist material through the expensive and the constantly unreliable medium of smuggling, placed upon FDD a serious responsibility of properly classifying its material so as to protect a source of information which is generally recognized to be highly valuable for the requirements of US intelligence. In the specific case of the Five-Year Plan which FDD classified Confidential, many consumers have raised the question as to why this document, which was easily procureable in Hong Kong, was so classified. Prior to classification FDD had looked seriously into this question and as far as FDD has been able to determine up to now there is no other copy of the original text of the Five-Year Plan available anywhere in the Free World countries. FDD is, however, ready to review classification any time information bearing on the subject becomes available. With regard to duplication FDD has requested Hong Kong to furnish from time to time a list of the longer translations which it plans to undertake.

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[redacted] has made a similar request to the 6004th AISS. Answers to both of these requests are still awaited in FDD. FDD wishes the community to know that FDD is aware that duplication in working with languages fritters away the already limited facilities available to the intelligence community and is trying to overcome it.

Navy: Navy stated that FDD's reporting on China and Korea was excellent. Its reporting on North Vietnam was used much less, since there had been no reports on naval matters. Navy informed the Committee that there was evidence of the beginnings of a navy in North Vietnam and desired all coverage possible on organization, general staff, biographic, and terminology on the administrative breakdown.

Air Force: Stated that some work was being done by the 6004th AISS, which had one squadron in South Korea and two squadrons in Japan. These squadrons are, however, service units for the Far Eastern Air Force and are responsible only to Air Force requirements. The documents which the 6004th has no further use for are sent to the Library of Congress. Those duplicating Library of Congress holdings, however, are turned over to the NSA representative in Tokyo. Microfilm of documents not available to CIA are made and turned over to CIA. In the Library of Congress some specific Chinese work is undertaken but it is not disseminated. The Air

as raw info

Force considers FDD reporting good; it is used on a routine basis.
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CIA: [] speaking for ORR, stated that FDD products are timely and useful and that liaison is good. He especially wished to thank FDD for its translation of the Five-Year Plan and the important work which they did on budget accounting. He felt that it was useless to require coverage of other sources than those already covered by FDD, since without a budgetary increase this would only mean a curtailing of coverage of the sources presently used. He believed that focusing coverage on specific subjects through liaison might result in some increase in fruitful information. He believed that some of the increased utility of FDD reports had resulted from the excellent working liaison which exists between the members of the Far East Branch of FDD and the ORR analysts.

25X1 [] CIA, stated that any plans for working towards a delimitation of FDD coverage by subject should await the outcome of similar arrangements which are presently being studied by the USSR Branch of FDD. 25X1 [] felt that there should be closer cooperation between the Hong Kong Press Monitoring Unit and FDD.

NSA stated that it was exceedingly pleased with FDD efforts on China, but that little use could be made, up to the present, of FDD reports on North Korea and North Vietnam.

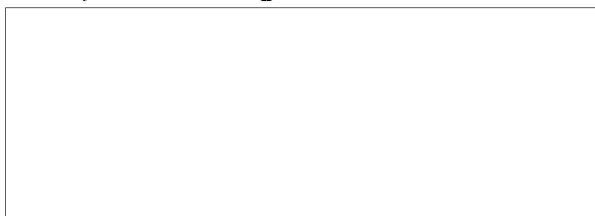
25X1 [] of FDD stated that he wished to comment on two operational problems which had been referred to in the course of the above discussions. He was glad that there was a general concern among the Committee members with the need for a more systematic approach to the problem of definition of terms presently used in the Chinese Communist literature. Those who work with the printed literature of the Far East are faced with the tremendous problems which are inherent in Far Eastern languages as such. These language problems have been aggravated by the introduction into the Chinese language of many politico-ideological concepts and economic terms and doctrines which frequently the Chinese Communist sources themselves do not handle with consistency. As a matter of fact, there is a growing body of press and periodical material directed towards informing the Chinese Communist cadres on the new terminology. Along with its publication of the Five-Year Plan FDD included the definition of 60 terms used in the Five-Year Plan translated from the periodical Hsueh-hai. In another separate report an additional group of terms were reported as defined in the Chinese Press. Additional terms from Chinese source materials are now being collected and will be reported later. For its own operational purposes FDD has isolated 750 terms and expressions from the Chinese text of the Five-Year Plan. To date FDD linguists have been able to agree on a standard translation of only about 450 of these 750 terms. When agreement can be arrived at on these terms FDD will make the list available to the general community. In addition FDD is collecting, from various sources, glossaries of English-Chinese terminology which it is reversing to Chinese-English and will plan to discuss publication of this with OCR some time in the future. At present there are approximately 20,000 words already processed into the glossary.

On the question of coverage of available source material wished to concur with and elaborate upon Mr. Lacey's concern with this matter. The question of how many newspapers can be processed is always a relative one. One full page of a Chinese newspaper which requires full exploitation would require an estimated 2-weeks for one man. With FDD receiving an average of 30 Chinese newspapers a day and 50 periodicals of intelligence value a month it is obvious that even with the best qualified personnel and the happiest of operational conditions, it is doubtful that even the so-called cream can be skimmed off. Some degree of the linguistic difficulty has been indicated above. The fact is, it takes long and patient working in the language to reach an efficient operational knowledge within one specialized field. In addition to this, adequate and comprehensible professional collection of information from a foreign language source requires an increasingly competent knowledge of the subject matter which is being handled. In other words, the question of increased manpower, although an easy statistical approach to the problem of coverage, is not an adequate approach. It will require of the intelligence community a more refined and specific knowledge of what they must have to service the intelligence needs of the government and it will require of those agencies involved in the handling of foreign language documents considered efforts to bring their personnel to a high level of professional competence. In brief, source material and the information that it does contain is at the present time almost inexhaustible. The facilities are too few, and the requirements of the intelligent community are too broad and general.

3. The Chairman distributed the Report of the Working Group which included agreed lists of Chinese Communist terms for the review by the Committee so that at a later meeting it can decide whether the standardized list will be adopted.

4. Agenda for the next meeting will be Scientific and Technical Exploitation on the Soviet Bloc.

5. The meeting adjourned at 1545 hours. The next meeting will be held 2 December 1955 at 1400 hours in Room 2125 M Building.



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